

## OEA Annual Assembly meets in person

by Rob Melton

About 800 delegates met Friday and Saturday April 21-22 from every local in the state, including OEA-Retired members, at the annual Representative Assembly at the Holiday Inn at Jantzen Beach.

President Reed Scott-Schwalbach was handily re-elected for a second term as president at Saturday's OEA RA winning 85 percent of the vote. She will lead the association of educational professionals with a team that includes a new full-time equity director. Vice President Enrique Farrera was also re-elected, winning 58 percent of the vote in a four-way race.

In a close race for the new OEA Equity Director position, Monica Weathersby came out on top, while Brinda Narayan-Wold won the NEA director position.

In addition, three long-time OEA-Retired and PMAE-Retired members, Bobbi Yambasu and Maureen Barnhart, received the OEA Bob Crumpton Organizational Award and Terri



Maureen Barnhart and Bobbi Yambasu received the Bob Crumpton Award celebrate with President Reed Scott Schwalbach and OEA-Retired Award recipient, Terri Domenigoni.

Photo by Marty Bronstein

Domenigoni received the OEA-Retired Lifetime Achievement Award.

After two years of virtual RAs, because of the pandemic, the two-day affair went relatively smoothly. All eyes were on OEA-Retired, led by *Continued on Page 3*

## PERS COLA increase coming in August

by Rob Melton

After last year's 8.01 percent increase in cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in the West Region Consumer Price Index, Tier One/Tier Two PERS retirees will see cost of living increase in their monthly pension benefit payments starting in August, but not the full amount. COLAs are limited to a maximum of two percent each year.

For Tier One/Tier Two members, the difference between the two percent maximum and the 8.01 percent CPI will be banked in what is called a CPI carryover. Your CPI carryover is used to provide you with the maximum two percent COLA in years when CPI is less than two percent. The CPI carryover does not apply to OPSRP members.

If you retired before October 1, 2013, you will receive the maximum COLA of two percent.

The table provides the CPI rates for the past eight years, including the current year. For more information see the PERS Retiree website.

West Region Consumer Price Index Rates (CPI)

by Year.

Bills have been introduced to address the gap but died in committee.

Year	CPI
2023	8.01%
2022	4.52%
2021	1.74%
2020	2.69%
2019	3.35%
2018	4.17%
2017	2.14%
2016	1.23%

# Random remarks



by **President Eileen Wende**

The OEA-Representative Assembly concluded its business on April 22, but only after the delegates to the RA volunteered their time to organize, create and finally debate the

business items of the RA to build a strong union and to protect and promote public education for all students. I am so proud of our OEA-Retired delegation, who participated in every aspect of this year's OEA-RA.

Our delegates attended the Pre-Representative Assembly Meetings (PRAM) in their area in preparation for the upcoming business of the actual RA. They attended and contributed to the OEA virtual hearings, which were held the week prior to the RA, as well as the virtual meeting held to adopt the Standing Rules for the 2023 OEA-RA.

At the direction of the OEA-Retired Executive Committee, our Bylaws and Policies Committee wrote and submitted proposed amendments to the OEA Bylaws and OEA Policies to strengthen and clarify current language. In Policy Amendment C, -

a proposal was made to balance the responsibilities of our two retired members on the OEA/NEA CAT committee. Prior to the change one retired member acted as the liaison to both of Oregon's senators and the other retired member was the liaison to all six of Oregon's representatives. Our proposed change to balance the responsibilities stated that each of our retired CAT members would have one senator and three representatives, who they would work with, as an OEA liaison, along with the OEA active liaisons, assigned to each Congressperson. Our proposed Policy Amendment passed.

In addition, Bylaw Amendment A was proposed to establish that every five years an analysis would be made of the sustainability of the OEA Relief Fund in the event the five largest districts in the state went on strike. If the fund could not sustain such an event, it would trigger a \$10 per year assessment of the current active membership, until the Relief Fund would be stable again. The Bylaws Amendment passed.

There were OEA-Retired members who volunteered to be microphone stewards, as well as to staff the OEA Foundation table, and to assist the Credential's Committee to monitor the floor of the RA, to verify delegate's floor status and to run the voting process. Even with all the extra responsibilities, OEA-Retired delegates maintained a visible and strong floor delegation.

Our OEA-Retired delegation represents years of experience in all aspects of education. This year three of our members were recognized for their years of experience in fighting for strong public schools, which support all students and strong Unions to protect the rights of educational employees.

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## PrimeTimes

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PrimeTimes, the official publication of OEA-Retired, is published five times a year as a benefit of membership.

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## CALENDAR

### 2023

June 1	<i>PrimeTimes</i> published
June 29-30	NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, Orlando, Florida
July 2-6	NEA Representative Assembly, Orlando, Florida
July 10	OEA-Retired Board Meeting,
September 11	OEA-Retired Board Meeting, Salem
October 16	Fall Conference, Coos Bay

# OEA Annual Assembly

*Continued from Page 1.*

President Eileen Wende, as the group was seated front and center in the assembly hall this year.

“I think we rocked the convention on a number of fronts,” said Wende. “We successfully passed our OEA Policy Proposal to equalize the workload of OEA CAT committee member,” said Wende, “and our OEA Bylaw proposal to insure that the OEA Relief Fund is evaluated every five years to make sure it is adequate to protect active OEA members in the event of work stoppages or other catastrophic events, also passed.”

The \$20 million OEA Relief Fund will now require a review every five years by the OEA Board to assure there is enough in the fund pay for five large locals being affected. If the figure is higher, the \$10 special assessment would be added to member dues until the fund meets its new target.

The RA is the largest democratically elected representative body in the state.

Retired delegates from across the state attended pre-RA hearings and a virtual rules adoption first session a week before the RA. Retired members felt it robbed the assembly of owning and understanding their rules since attendance came no where near the 800 delegates who attended, said Wende. The caucus will advocate for change next year that would return to the organization’s traditional practice of adopting

it at the convention by the delegates themselves.

In addition, under the new rules no New Business Items could be submitted on Saturday for the afternoon RA session.

Concern over the OEA Foundation audits by NEA, vacancies in key leadership positions and the oversight problems that have ensued, no OEA-Retired UniServ staff for months, the sale of OEA real estate used for UniServ offices, and how key committees that report to the RA are doing their work were discussed.

Of particular concern is that a number of proposals that were submitted by the RA deadline were ruled late, postponing some OEA-Retired Bylaws proposals until next year. Some of the items will be considered in other forms at this meeting. The group will advocate for revising an annual meeting schedule for all committees and clearly laid out deadlines and timelines so the important work of the governing body of OEA has time to do their job.

The Retired delegation maintained a consistent presence on the RA floor, Wende said, even as members helped with Credentials, voting, OEA Foundation fundraising, the Retired membership table, as well as helping manage microphones on the RA floor.

## Remarks

*Continued from Page 2.*  
service to OEA and OEA-Retired have grown our union. Terri’s long-time service for her local, for OEA, for NEA and now for OEA-Retired are a testimony to the merits of Domenigoni winning this well-

deserved award.

In addition, Bobbi Yambasu and Maureen Barnhart were both honored by receiving the OEA’s Robert G. Crumpton Organizational Excellence Award. This award is given to members who have promoted organizational excellence through longtime service to OEA.

Bobbi Yambasu served her local, and OEA throughout her career, as a teacher and advocate often assuming responsibilities others were reluctant to take on. Bobbi always follows through on all her responsibilities. When Bobbi assumed a responsibility, leadership knew that it would be accomplished.

Maureen Barnhart has been an enthusiastic and respected activist in her local and with OEA. Maureen has assumed and served her local and OEA and now, OEA-Retired, at many levels. Besides her leadership abilities, Maureen is a passionate advocate for equity and social justice issues.

OEA-Retired is proud of these award winners, as well as our previous awardees. We flourish, as an organization because of the support of members like this!

## We remember

Dorothy Quteb - Portland  
April 10, 2023

<https://obits.oregonlive.com/us/obituaries/oregon/name/carol-qutub-obituary?id=51599982>



# Blast from the past

by Ray Johnson

Here is the latest history trivia about our organization.

**35 years ago**

An NEA staff person presented information on state and national legislation.

**30 years ago**

It was announced that NEA-Retired is now 10 years old but only realizing close to four percent of its possible membership.

**25 years ago**

We submitted this resolution at the OEA Representative Assembly that was successfully passed: The OEA believes retirees are a valuable resource for the Association and should be encouraged to maintain their involvement through membership in the retired organizations. Local associations also are encouraged to support such membership.

**20 years ago**

The Salem Area Chapter-Retired Educators was approved by the OEA-Retired Board as our second local chapter, after Eugene.

**15 years ago**

We were informed by NEA that our membership had increased enough to warrant three delegates to the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting and NEA Representative Assembly. Steve Hillis joined the other two delegates, Nancy Lewis and Shirley Gernhart.

**10 years ago**

Senate Bill 822 was signed by Gov. John Kitzhaber that eliminated the tax reimbursement for retirees who moved out of state. Many years previously the state did not tax

PERS benefits, but the federal government ruled that this was illegal, so the state raised PERS benefits to cover that taxation. Since retirees who move out of state are not paying state taxes the benefit is unnecessary.

**5 years ago**

The Membership Committee continued its efforts to recruit new members and held a luncheon at OEA RA where 18 members signed up as pre-retired. Previously, the promotion had recruited 54 other new members.

## Cash for kids

by Rob Melton

OEA-Retired's signature fundraising event for The OEA Foundation raised at least \$3,550 at this year's OEA-RA through its silent auction and raffles said Anne Jones, OEA-Retired Foundation Committee.

The baskets and items are donated by locals, individuals, and other groups to provide up to \$100 grants to help students meet basic, urgent, and immediate needs so they can succeed in schools.

"We raffled off four tubs with items all donated by OEA-Retired members," said Jones. "We also had approximately 12-15 big baskets filled with items."

Some of the baskets were donated by OEA-Retired members individually, including Shirley House, Dan and Terri Domenigoni, Nancy Lewis, and Bob and Ann Jones. Other baskets were donated by various UniServs, several other groups, and individual candidates for OEA offices who donated cash.

OEA Retired Foundation Committee members include Anne and Bob Jones, Steve

Hillis, Paul Schultz, and OEA Board Director Judy Christensen.

Two educators who were not RA delegates, Pat Eder and Trish Leighton, volunteered at the tables this year. Eder also volunteers throughout the year at the OEA Foundation office recording grant requests and awards.

Established in 1995, cash grants from the Foundation fill needs unmet by any other source. Since the beginning, the key source for these critical grants has been donations from OEA members and staff. The OEA family continues to be generous in their support through payroll deductions, cash donations, and online donations. All donations are charitable tax-deductible donations as covered by its 501(c)(3) status.

Other ways individuals can donate include the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program and designate The OEA Foundation to receive donations from Fred Meyer (use ID: UL987), and BottleDrop, where you can transfer your account balance to The OEA Foundation, or pick up the blue bags under The OEA Foundation name at any redemption center or at a local OEA office throughout the state.

**"To be good, and to do good, is all we have to do."**

by John Adams

# Never to early to begin

by Janet Jackson

You may have tangible wealth untold;  
Caskets of jewels and coffer of gold.

Richer than I you can never be

—  
I had a Mother\* who read to me.

Strickland Gillilan (\*substitute Father, Grandparent, Teacher, Brother, Sister . . .)

My son, Daren, was 2 ½ months old on his first Christmas in 1968. My grandmother gave him two Little Golden Books, Tootle and Corky. (She also gave him a high chair, which as poor college students we really needed!)

Grandma told me, “Janet, you need to start reading to that baby right now!” Well, I did, and my son definitely became a lifelong reader. Sometimes he would have five different books set out in his room and would read a chapter from each one and then start through the order again.

In second or third grade he and a friend decided they wanted to make models. His friend was really good at manipulating all the pieces, but not so good at reading the directions. Daren was just the opposite.

I remember standing outside Daren’s bedroom door, listening to him read the directions while Derek put the pieces together. I am happy to say that Daren followed the tradition and has been reading



to his son since he was a tiny baby. I will be visiting my son and grandson soon and you can bet my suitcase will have books in it.

When we distribute books from the Literacy Project around the state, we often receive thank you notes from the kids who get the books.

My favorites are the ones who tell me they chose a particular book because they wanted to read it to their little brother or sister. If you have a child to whom you would like to read, just let me know and I will be happy to send you some books.

You may contact me by email at [gogirl2@comcast.net](mailto:gogirl2@comcast.net) or text to 503-407-5129.

Never underestimate the power of reading to a child!

## Updates on bylaws/ policies

by Regina Norris

The OEA-Retired Board approved the submission of two amendments to the OEA Bylaws and Policies Committee.

The Bylaw Amendment, in summary, is that an analysis be

made of the cost if the five largest OEA locals suffered a Relief Fund applicable need at the same time, with an assessment if the Relief Fund falls below that level. One amendment was made by the body on the floor of the RA and then was ultimately approved.

The Policy Amendment, in summary, will even up the assignments of the OEA-Retired CAT members to three legislators each. It was approved by the body at the Assembly.

You can see the approved texts, in their entirety, on the OEA website under Governing Documents.

## Election results for OEA-Retired

by Mavis Randklev

Congratulations to the following people who were elected to the OEA-Retired Board this year:

**Secretary** - Paul Zastrow

**Treasurer** - Bobbi Yambasu

**Region III Director** - Judith Richards

**At Large Director** - Janis Eggert

**NEA Delegate** - Judy Christensen

**OEA RA Delegate/OEA-Retired Board Director** -

Martin Bronstein, Benni Cota, Patricia Eder, Janis Eggert, Nancy Giuliani, Diane Hicks, Shirley House, Kathryn Huerta, Ray Johnson, Rob Melton, Regina Norris, Jay Reed, Paul Schutz, Kathryn Warrior, Karen Watters, Bobbi Yambasu, and Paul Zastrow,

# Leave the planning to Collette

by Ray Johnson

We are sponsoring another Zoom meeting on June 14 to highlight our first trip of 2024—**Exploring South Africa, Victoria Falls & Botswana**, scheduled for February 2-16. Our Collette trip representative will be present to show slides and discuss the trip, as well as having testimonies from some members who enjoyed this trip earlier, along with door prizes.

Be sure to send your name and mail address to rayugene@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link.

This trip to South Africa, and the adjoining countries of Botswana and Zimbabwe, will be an unparalleled journey through the cultural diversity and abundant wildlife of southern Africa, including the cities of Johannesburg and Cape Town. Seek out the “Big 5” animals on eight different safaris. Experience an authentic bush dinner under the stars in Pilanesberg National Park.

Get a taste of South African culture at local wineries. Witness the natural beauty of Victoria Falls. Greet African elephants and spend time interacting with them. Search for animals along the winding Chobe River. Epic scenery and winding coastlines come together in an incredible adventure. Tour is a level 3 activity, which is on-the-go walking for more than 90 minutes with various activities.

There is an optional three-night Dubai pre-tour extension.



## OEA-Retired Travel 2023-24

### Kingdoms of SE Asia

October 5, 2023. 19 days with 31 meals.

Cost: \$5,999.

Deposit of \$698 due March 6, 2023.

Final payment due August 6, 2023

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1091448>

### Spotlight on New Orleans Holidays

December 3-7, 2023. 5 days with 7 meals.

Cost: \$2,299.

Deposit of \$698 due July 3, 2023.

Final payment due October 4, 2023.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1091367>.

### Exploring South Africa, Victoria Falls & Botswana

February 2-16, 2024. 15 days with 29 meals.

Cost: \$7,599.

Deposit of \$698 due July 10, 2023.

Final payment due December 4, 2023.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/li>

### Exploring Greece and Its Islands

May 9-24, 2024. 16 days with 24 meals.

Cost: \$5,999.

Deposit of \$698 due November 10, 2023.

Final payment due March 10, 2024.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1154557>

### National Parks of America

September 14-25, 2024. 12 days with 16 meals.

Cost: \$5,949.

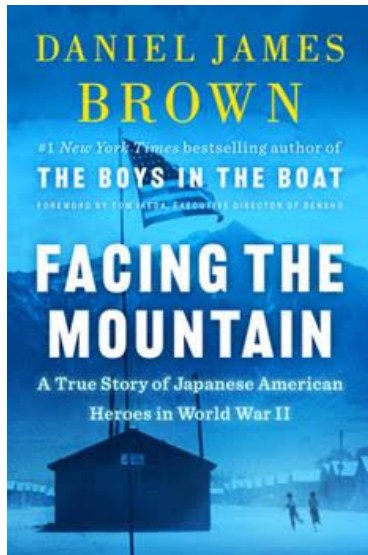
Deposit of \$698 due March 14, 2024.

Final payment due July 16, 2024.

For more information or reservations, go to <https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1154565>

For information on New Orleans, South Africa or National Parks, contact Sandi Rosenfeld at 503-880-9953, or [sanrosenfeld@gmail.com](mailto:sanrosenfeld@gmail.com)

For SE Asia, Greek Islands or Spain & Portugal, contact Nancy Lewis at 503-352-4453, or [nancyjolewis@gmail.com](mailto:nancyjolewis@gmail.com)



## Let's talk about books

by Marleen Wallingford

Join OEA-Retired's Equity and Social Justice Committee book talks. We can learn about other communities through their stories.

Our next book is "Facing the Mountain" which tells the story of Japanese Americans during World War II. Daniel Brown focuses on four individuals and their families. It's a technique that he used in his last best seller, "the Boys on the Boat."

It tells their heroic adventures despite the incarceration of their families in American Concentration Camps, which had been euphemistically called Internment Camps by the federal government. Former OEA President Bruce Adams reported that once he started the book, he couldn't put it down.

**June 30**

"Facing the Mountain" by Daniel Brown

Contact Bobbi Yambasu at [bobby4967@gmail.com](mailto:bobby4967@gmail.com) to get the link for the virtual discussion.

We are planning for next year's book talk. Please send us suggestions for some great reads that highlight different aspects of minority experiences. We are looking for non-fiction as well as fiction titles.

## Region I meets

by Ray Johnson

As we start to wrap up the year, the Region Directors planned to make a decision—too late to report—at the May Board meeting about a possible replacement for our annual September Not Back To School Picnic.

Our next luncheons in Portland are:

**Nicholas Restaurant**

11:30 a.m., June 19  
1109 SE Madison St.

**The Barley Pod Food Court,**

11:30 a.m. July 18  
6035 NE Halsey St.

See you the next time in September.

Please RSVP to Ray Johnson at 503-887-0467 or [rayugene@gmail.com](mailto:rayugene@gmail.com), or contact with questions.

## Region III wine tasting

by Vickie Jackson

Come to Maragas Winery close to Terrebonne along U.S. 97—address is 15523 U.S. Hwy 97, Culver.

We will be there from noon to 2 p.m. on June 21. You buy your drink and OEA-Retired will supply the snacks. RSVP to Vickie Jackson at

[dandvjackson@gmail.com](mailto:dandvjackson@gmail.com) or call 541-475-7252.

In Coos Bay, come to Dave's Pizza, at 740 Coos Bay Blvd – pizza and pop at noon on June 9. Contact Ruth Greiner at [reg2006@charter.net](mailto:reg2006@charter.net)



by Marleen Wallingford

Come relax and enjoy conversations with our retired members. Fellow educators are engaged and interesting people, and we love to chat.

**General Meeting with End-of-Year Picnic**

11 a.m., June 8  
Bobbi Yambasu's backyard  
14223 SE Alder St.,  
Portland  
RSVP to Marleen Wallingford at [marleenwong@gmail.com](mailto:marleenwong@gmail.com) or 503-927-2766.

Our last activity of the year will be exploring one of the Portland areas largest Asian grocery store, H-Mart. There are many Korean as well as other Asian foods to learn about. So if you want to get some authentic kimchi or fresh jasmine rice and peruse the aisles come join us.



11 a.m., June 26  
13600 SW Pacific HWY  
Tigard

RSVP to Marleen—contact information above.

Lunch will be afterwards in one of the restaurants in the store.

We are always looking for suggestions for activities or places for us to explore next year.

## *OEA Foundation asks:*

### *Can you help?*

- ✓ Every day, students in our schools need: 🍎 **new school clothes**  
👓 **eyeglasses** 🧥 **warm winter coats** 🎧 **hearing aids.**
- ✓ You can help to provide a better education for these students.  
by making tax-deductible contributions to the **OEA Foundation.**
- ✓ As the **OEA Foundation** takes no administrative costs out of your  
donation, 100 percent of your contribution goes directly to the students  
to provide these basic needs.

Please mail a check to **OEA Foundation** (6900 SW Atlanta St.,  
Portland, OR 97223) to help our students,  
or, donate online at [www.oregoned.org/oeafoundation](http://www.oregoned.org/oeafoundation).

You also can earn redeemable points for the Foundation by registering  
your Fred Meyer Rewards card at [www.fredmeyer.com/  
communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) (use Foundation number 85681), or similarly for  
Amazon at [org.amazon.com](http://org.amazon.com).

**Get an Oregon  
tax credit  
\$50 for single  
filers and \$100 for  
couples.  
Contribute to  
OEA PAC**

Contribute online at Oregon  
Education Association PAC

**Have you moved  
or changed your  
email?**

Contact: Nikki Burke  
Oregon Education Association  
6900 SW Atlanta St.  
Portland, OR 97223  
503-495-2153  
[nikki.burke@oregoned.org](mailto:nikki.burke@oregoned.org)